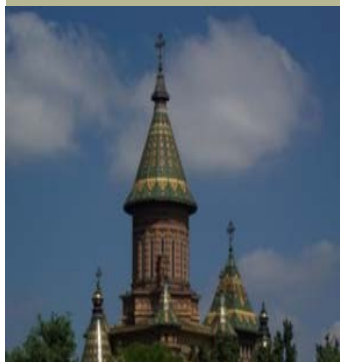




American Citizen Services eNewsletter

October 2012

MEET OUR NEW CONSUL GENERAL HENRY LEIGHTON



I look forward to serving the American community in Romania as your Consul General. I began my career with the Department of State in 1988, first serving as a Foreign Service Specialist at the U.S. Embassies in Kuwait City, Stockholm, Vienna and Berlin. In 1997, I served for three years as a Vice Consul in Manila. In 2002, I permanently changed my career path by becoming a Foreign Service Generalist Officer in the consular cone. Following language training, I spent four years working as a Consul in Frankfurt, Germany. Subsequently, I received Arabic language training both at the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, Virginia and in Tunis, Tunisia. After that I served as the Consul General at the American Embassy in Damascus, Syria. Finally, I served for close to three years in a domestic assignment as the Assistant Director of the Western Passport Center in Tucson, Arizona where I helped open this new Department of State facility.



The most important responsibility of any U.S. Mission overseas is the safety and security of the U.S. citizens within its district. It is my belief that nobody is more intimately familiar with this duty as much as the chief of a consular section at any U.S. Mission abroad. Although visa matters are undoubtedly important, nothing can take the place of the primacy of our concern for the welfare of American citizens abroad in general and in our consular district, in particular. I, as well as my staff, am committed to providing the best service possible to our American constituents and I look forward to your coming to the consular section, whether it be to renew your passport, register the birth of your child, or for any of the other services that we provide. I should add that I never want to miss an opportunity such as this, to encourage our citizens to enroll with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, so that we can contact you in the event of an emergency and provide you with up-to-date travel information and public announcements. The process is quite simple. Please use the following link to register and then do not hesitate to share this link with your U.S. citizen family and friends in Romania, so we can stay in touch with them as well: <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/registration.html>.

All non-emergency ACS services (passport renewals, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, notary services, etc.) are provided by appointment **ONLY**.

Please follow [this link](#) to make an appointment with our staff.

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

Address: [Bulevardul Dr. Liviu Librescu 4-6 \(link to Google Maps\)](#)

E-mail: acsbucharest@state.gov

Tel: +40-21-270 6000


Fax: +40-21-200-3578

In the event of an emergency involving an American citizen, please, call +40-21-200-3300

For information about public hours, please visit <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html>.



MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR GITENSTEIN FOR THE 2012 ELECTIONS

Click on the image below to watch this video on 



ABSENTEE VOTING: *ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF VOTED BALLOTS*

Be sure that you know *all of your options* before filling out and sending your ballot. Insufficient mail transit time is a common obstacle many citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) encounter when voting by absentee ballot. The FVAP *Electronic Transmission Service* (ETS - by email and fax) has been very successful in improving delivery of voting materials. The service is an effective and efficient alternative to the by-mail delivery of election materials between local election officials and UOCAVA voters (**when permitted by state law**).

To date, 49 states and territories allow for some type of electronic transmission of absentee voting materials for UOCAVA citizens. The provisions and guidelines for returning voted ballots are identified for *each* state and territory. Please consult the [Federal Voting Assistance Program's Voting Assistance Guide](#) for electronic transmission options for your state.

If your state does not allow for return of voted ballots by email or fax, the following options are available:

Local mail: If you have good mail service to the United States, put your ballot in the mail with appropriate international postage.

U.S. Embassy Pouch/APO/FPO: You can drop off your ballot request or voted ballot at the U.S. Embassy for return to the United States, or you can have someone drop it off for you. It must be addressed to your local election officials and have sufficient postage or be in a postage-paid envelope. A postage-paid envelope is available on the [FVAP web site](#).

Express Courier Service: If time is short or local mail is unreliable, you can use professional courier services such as FedEx, DHL, or UPS.



Questions? Please, visit <http://www.fvap.gov> or write to ACSBucharest@state.gov.

VOTE



COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) INFORMATION FOR 2013



Message from the Regional Federal Benefits Office

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for nearly 62 million Americans will increase 1.7 percent in 2013.

The 1.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that more than 56 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2013. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 31, 2012.

Information about Medicare changes for 2013, *when announced*, will be available at www.Medicare.gov. For some beneficiaries, their Social Security increase may be partially or completely offset by increases in Medicare premiums.

More information about this is available at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/cola/>.



INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

PASSPORTS

VISAS

CHILD ABDUCTION

International Travel

Emergencies and Crises

International Travel Information

Tips for Traveling Abroad

Living Abroad Tips

A-Z Index of Topics

Recent Emergency Messages to U.S. Citizens

The following Emergency and Security Messages for U.S. Citizens have been issued related to protests at U.S. Embassies, service disruptions, closures, departure of non-emergency personnel, and related security events for September 12 through today. We encourage you to check Embassy and Consulate websites for updates:

ALBANIA

- Tirana

AFGHANISTAN



Have a question about visiting or living overseas? Check out these links and find answers to your questions!

[A Safe Trip Abroad](#)

[Road Safety Overseas](#)

[Death Abroad](#)

[Forced Marriages](#)

[Emergency Information](#)

[Overseas Security Advisory Council](#)

[Diplomatic Security Releases](#)

[Help for American Victims of Crime](#)

OCTOBER - BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

From Embassy Newsletter "Dacian Dispatch"



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. While most people are aware of breast cancer, many forget to take the steps to have a plan to detect the disease in its early stages and encourage others to do the same. We have made a lot of progress but still have a long way to go and need your help!

About 1 in 8 U.S. women will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. In 2011, an estimated 230,480 new cases of invasive breast cancer were diagnosed in women in the U.S. along with 57,650 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer.

Early detection is key to combating the disease. The earlier the cancer is found, the better chance for survival and less invasive treatments. The two most important ways to identify breast cancer early is by way of Self Breast Exams monthly and mammography (special breast x-ray) for women once a year aged 40 – 60.

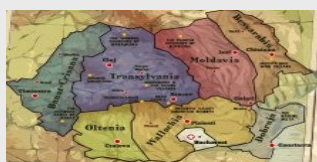
Forty percent of diagnosed breast cancers are detected by women who feel a lump. Self breast exams are easy to do. Your health clinic can help teach you how.

Men can get breast cancer too. Although less common, male breast cancer is often more progressed as well as more fatal since it is discovered much later as no one is really looking for it. About 2,140 new cases of invasive breast cancer diagnosed in men in 2011. A man's lifetime risk of breast cancer is about 1 in 1,000.

Read more about this subject at <http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month> and <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/breastcancerawareness/>.

New to Romania?

Check out these websites to learn about Romania, country's famous tourist destinations, interesting events, and connect with other expats!



ENGAGE

Looking for a way to stay connected with the latest U.S. Department of State news? Follow us on [Twitter](#), converse with us on [Facebook](#), watch us on [YouTube](#) and view our photos on [Flickr](#)! No matter which way you choose to stay updated and receive information, you'll always have access to the U.S. Department of State.

STAY INFORMED.

STAY CONNECTED.

STAY SAFE.

Important

In the remainder 2012, the Embassy will be closed on November 12, November 22, November 30 (new), December 25 and December 26 in observance of U.S. and Romanian official holidays and for administrative reasons.



Interesting Fact

The candy-collecting tradition on Halloween has spread from the United States to Canada, Australia, and Western Europe, where more and more little children now trick-or-treat. In parts of England, children carry lanterns called punkies (which look like jack-o'-lanterns) and parade through the town on the last Thursday of October. In Ireland, rural neighborhoods light bonfires, and children play snap apple, in which they try to take a bite from apples that are hung by strings from a tree or a door frame...



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

I need to visit the American Citizen Services Unit of the consular section. Will I be able to take my laptop and my cell phone inside the consular waiting room?

No, you won't be able to bring your cell phone or your laptop inside our waiting room.

We would like to take this opportunity and kindly remind all of our customers that, for security reasons, electronic devices, such as cell phones, Blackberries, cameras, as well as laptops, may not be brought inside the consular section, including the waiting room.

In addition, please note that there is no luggage storage facility at the Embassy and, therefore, we strongly advise you not to bring large bags, such as backpacks, suitcases and other types of luggage, when you come to the Embassy, as those items are not allowed within the Embassy.



Also, please note that only those customers who seek consular services or consular assistance will be admitted into the consular section's waiting room. Exceptions will be made for minors, as well as those customers who are disabled and/or require assistance.



Please be advised that customers who do not follow above instructions may experience considerable delays at the security check point and miss their appointments.



If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please, email us at

ACSBucharest@state.gov

